

Strategic Plan for the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation (ICCT)

MISSION STATEMENT:

To facilitate the broad coordination of local public transportation services in Illinois to effectively and efficiently provide for the essential needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations throughout the state.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Set priorities and recommend changes for improving access to transportation for the transportation-disadvantaged.
2. To facilitate the coordination of public and private transportation services, with priority given to services directed toward populations not currently served or underserved by existing public transit.
3. Identify innovative approaches to provide funding for local transportation services and offer expertise on improvements to counties and communities throughout Illinois.
4. To appropriately and equitably utilize the resources and expertise of all agencies represented on the ICCT in providing public and transportation-disadvantaged services for Illinois clients in need.
5. To support and facilitate continued independence and well-being for transportation-disadvantaged populations and the general public by providing public transportation resources as practicable to help Illinois citizens find and retain employment, as well as fulfill their other daily functions (e.g., Doctor visits, shopping, etc.).
6. To specifically target coordinated public transportation access to lower-income, transportation-disadvantaged sectors of Illinois.
7. To craft all coordination strategies for flexibility in meeting circumstances indicated by local and regional needs.
8. To involve transportation planners, providers, and stakeholders at the community level throughout the state, and facilitate locally based solutions to transportation access problems.
9. To provide technical assistance to state and local transit agencies, transit providers, and stakeholders in the development and support of innovative transportation options, particularly in designing systems and accessing available state and federal funds.
10. To make recommendations for both existing resources and for additional resources if and when available.
11. To develop equitable and standardized trip reimbursement rates for client reimbursement programs.
12. To provide for a centralized data center.

**ICCT Objective # 1:
Improve Coordination of Community-Based Public and Specialized Transportation Programs**

Target # 1: Reduced duplication of existing public transportation funding and services, through coordination of public and private, not-for-profit services.

Initiative # 1: Identify state and federally mandated public transportation programs by state agency and the funds earmarked for each program.

Initiative # 2: Define the public transportation responsibilities of each state agency that receives discretionary or earmarked funds for said services.

Initiative # 3: Define "coordination" using a statewide model of public transportation funding with consideration for mandated programs.

Target # 2: Complete public transportation coverage can be provided by better utilizing and deploying existing resources.

Initiative # 1: Develop a comprehensive list of current public transportation service providers in Illinois and compile an inventory of their ridership eligibility requirements in order to provide the best system.

Target # 3: Information on the successful coordination of other state programs is utilized in developing strategies on improving the Illinois public transportation program.

Initiative # 1: Benchmark what other states have done to coordinate public transportation activities and funding and use that information to advise the development of Illinois' new program.

**ICCT Objective # 1:
Improve Coordination of Community-Based Public and Specialized Transportation Programs (continued)**

Target #4: Regional Transportation Planning Committees are developed and supported where Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) do not currently exist, and all providers are required to take part in these committees.

Initiative # 1: Investigate the feasibility of creating a "regional" public transportation structure in Illinois that will direct funding to identified regions throughout the state.

Target # 5: Geographical areas of greatest need are identified, where greatest value can be achieved from better coordination.

Initiative # 1: Geomap existing public transportation services by provider location, population served, the service area, hours of service, and the number and type of vehicles.

Initiative # 2: Identify counties in Illinois where gaps exist in the provision of county-wide public transportation services.

Initiative # 3: Develop a plan of action to provide county-wide public transportation services in the areas identified in the gap analysis.

**ICCT Objective # 2:
Promote Innovative Funding Strategies and Provide Expertise and Support for Local Transportation Funding Requests**

Target # 1: A unified process is developed to apply for federal transportation assistance in support of innovative to-work projects throughout Illinois.

Initiative # 1: Develop an inventory of all federal public transportation assistance programs and make the information available through the information clearinghouse.

Target # 2: A statewide process for requesting JARC funds based on community input is developed.

Initiative # 1: In conjunction with the JARC working group recommendations, develop an application review process that provides for community-based input.

Target # 3: Funds from other state or federal sources for projects that do not qualify for JARC funds are identified for individual counties and communities.

Initiative # 1: Identify funding sources not earmarked for JARC projects and make the information available on the clearinghouse website.

**ICCT Objective # 3:
Provide Up-to-Date Program Information and Communications Services to Local Areas**

Target # 1: A well informed network of service providers linked by an effective communication structure throughout Illinois.

Initiative # 1: Establish a centralized information clearinghouse on coordination programs, including potential funding resources, grant-writing expertise, system design, and other best practices and innovations to serve the general public and the transportation-disadvantaged.

Initiative # 2: Develop an ICCT website in conjunction with the information clearinghouse that is accessible to all public transportation service providers throughout Illinois.

Initiative # 3: Educate all public transportation service providers about the mission, guiding principles, and activities of the ICCT through its website.

Initiative # 4: Determine the staffing needs for the information clearinghouse and recommend staff levels to the Governor's Office.

Target # 2: Recommendations are provided for needed statutory or regulatory changes to promote public transportation coordination.

Initiative # 1: Form a working group to advise the ICCT on needed statutory and regulatory updates.

Initiative #2: Review the coordination requirements in the Section 5310 and 5311 grant programs and recommend statutory and regulatory updates to strengthen those requirements.

Initiative #3: Monitor Section 5310 and 5311 grant recipients to ensure compliance with coordination requirements.

**ICCT Objective # 3:
Provide Up-to-Date Program Information and Communications Services to Local Areas (continued)**

Target # 3: Identify and recruit stakeholders in future initiatives to join ICCT efforts

Initiative # 1: Define "stakeholders" as they relate to public transportation services in Illinois and solicit their involvement in the process.

Initiative # 2: Develop working procedures for stakeholder involvement in the public transportation service provision process.

Target # 4: A structure and method for community feedback and involvement in regional transportation planning and coordination processes is developed.

Initiative # 1: Conduct a statewide needs assessment of public transportation needs, by region, within Illinois.

Initiative #2: Conduct regional meetings to inform service providers and other stakeholders about the ICCT efforts and the need to coordinate public transportation funding in Illinois.

Target # 5: A definitive technical assistance program that addresses gaps in public transportation is developed and is readily available to assist service providers.

Initiative # 1: Develop a state-wide model for providing "technical assistance" to public transportation service providers.

Initiative # 2: Create a task force or working group that will go out into Illinois counties and communities to apply the technical assistance model for service providers.

**ICCT Objective # 4:
Establish Cost-Effective and Efficient Administrative Procedures for ICCT Oversight Work**

Target # 1: Participating state agencies agree on the principles and strategy of the ICCT and have pledged support for the program.

Initiative # 1: Develop memoranda of understanding to specify the public transportation roles and responsibilities of each participating agency (i.e., federal, state and local) in relationship to the ICCT.

Initiative # 2: Investigate the feasibility of a legislative mandate for state agencies to cooperate with the ICCT efforts.

Target # 2: The working structure of the ICCT is established.

Initiative # 1: Create a working group to develop the organizational structure for the ICCT that reflects reporting relationships, feedback procedures, and staff responsibilities.

Initiative # 2: Present the recommended structure, including the ICCT decision-making process, communication linkages, and sub-committee structures to the full ICCT for approval.

Target # 3: ICCT coordination and staffing needs are identified as are possible funding sources.

Initiative # 1: Develop a multi-year funding program for ICCT staff and office expenses (e.g., website, etc.)

Initiative # 2: Identify individual skill sets needed among ICCT staff and appropriate methods of interviewing and hiring staff.

**ICCT Objective # 4:
Establish Cost-Effective and Efficient Administrative Procedures for ICCT Oversight Work (continued)**

Target # 4: A report on ICCT activities with recommendations is developed and finalized for delivery to the Governor and General Assembly.

Initiative # 1: Complete a draft report on ICCT activities and recommendations by November 1, 2005.

Initiative # 2: Submit the final report of the ICCT with recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by February 1, 2006.